



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



Brule/Buffalo Counties

Diana Schroeder



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The marinas in Chamberlain area are all iced over with the channel frozen also. Also the fish cleaning stations are closed. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. Remember the daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge known as the dredge hole is now closed until **April 30th**.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose season, Unit 2, west of Hwy 50 south, down to 350th Ave closes on November 15th. Unit 1 closes December 16th. The boundary descriptions are listed in the Hunting and Trapping Handbook on page 18.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone closes December 9th east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone closes January 15th which includes west of Hwy 50. Holoubek and Red Lake GPAs are frozen over. If you are not certain what the zone boundaries are the descriptions are listed on page 17 of the Hunting and Trapping Handbook.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opened September 20th. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year. Keep in mind the grouse season closes January 4th.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. The regular pheasant season opened for residents and nonresidents on October 18th. Hunters reported seeing many roosters on the public hunting areas near Chamberlain also seeing a lot south of Kimball. Remember pheasant season will close January 4th.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13th to January 15th.

Bow season for deer opened September 27th and closes December 31st. Antlerless tags **ONLY** opens January 1st to the 15th for bow season. Any deer or any whitetail deer tags are not eligible for the January season.

Fall turkey season opened November 1st and closes January 31st.

East River rifle season closed on December 7th. Antlerless or doe tags **ONLY** are valid December 27 – January 4th. Any deer or any whitetail deer tags do not transfer to doe tags. Be

sure to wear your required orange garments. Reminder: If you shoot a deer and it runs onto private property or property you don't have permission to enter, you must receive permission to retrieve your deer.

Stay safe!

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Small ponds and sloughs are frozen over. The small lakes had no use. Lake Oahe has frozen over with ice building, be cautious of thin ice.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report:

Pudwell Dam: Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

Morristown East: No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike

Morristown West: No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches

Trail City Dam: Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

Little Moreau #1: Activity low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. Some large crappies and bluegill.

Little Moreau #2: Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. Stocked 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014. Another stocking of 1200 rainbows the third week of September.

Isabel Lake: Some activity. Walleyes being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught. Fish from the new fishing dock.

Eagle Butte Dam: Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



Hunting Report:

Geese and ducks have left the area for the most part. Grouse is open, hatch was fair but numbers are still low. Hunters had mixed success but overall a good experience. 70 percent of the harvest was young birds. Some reports of partridge in spots. Pheasant is open but pressure is very high in the Fire steel and Timber lake area. Numbers are better than last year but still below the ten year average. Hunters had mixed success averaging about one bird a piece. There are a lot of hunters on public lands and WIA. Birds are very flighty. Deer season is closed in Corson and Dewey

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Inconsistent ice depth and warm temperatures this week, it is advised to stay off the river. Small dams should be some excellent weather to pan fish.



Hunting Report:

Warm weather this week should make sitting in a tree stand for late season archery pretty cozy.

Gregory County

Hans Walleser



Fishing Report:

Ice fishing season is here. Make sure you have a valid license and stay within the daily and possession limits.

Always check ice with a spud bar before venturing out. All bodies of water do not create ice equally. One pond may have 6 inches and another only 2.



Hunting Report:

West River Deer season ended on November 30.

Antlerless season extension: only those tags specifically designated as "antlerless" are valid from December 27 - January 4 for all west river units. "Any" deer tags **no longer** convert for this extended season.

Muzzleloader deer season opened on December 1 and ends on December 31. Make sure you have a valid tag and are hunting open unit.

Pheasant season closes on January 4. Daily limit is 3, possession is 15.

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Hughes County

John Murphy



Fishing Report:

Ice conditions are declining again with the warm weather be careful.



Hunting Report:

Deer hunting in Hughes County as the east river season has closed. The archery deer season and muzzle loader season continues on and people are having good success. People are reminded to get out of their vehicle to go hunting. Pheasant hunters are still doing well in thick cover, hunters are reminded to go over road hunting regulations in the hunting handbook. Waterfowl hunting is fair, not a lot of geese and ducks in Hughes County.

Jones County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: **See Missouri River Report below**

Many stock dams in the area have 6-9" of ice allowing anglers to punch holes in the ice for pan fish opportunities. Early season ice can provide some fast action bites.



Hunting Report:

Deer hunters found moderate success during West River Rifle season. Hunters willing to brave the cold and wind were able to take advantage of the deer movement. Deer activity has slowed down after the peak rut and large groups of does are starting to congregate.

Lyman County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishermen are experiencing success on Lake Francis Case. Most anglers are catching smaller 12"-14" walleye and smallmouth. Determined anglers have been able to scratch out a few limits of fish in the 16"-20" range. Walleye are being caught below the Big Bend Dam at Ft. Thompson and along the Legion Memorial Causeway. Anglers experiencing the most success are fishing around sunset.



Hunting Report:

The annual goose migration has started. Rafts of geese are starting to arrive on Lake Francis Case along with several species of divers and puddle ducks. Hunters are reminded to check their shotguns for a magazine capacity plug. Federal regulations require shotguns to be able to hold no more than three shells at a time-(2 in the magazine and 1 in the chamber) Also Federal regulations require the use of non-toxic shot for waterfowl on all lands publicly and **PRIVATELY** owned.

Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below:

Potts Dam – Ice on Potts Dam is 8-10 inches thick. Anglers not reporting anything for catch
Lake Hurley – Ice is 8 inches. Anglers have been catching decent sized perch.
Simon Dam – ice is 8-10 inches. No Activity.
Missouri River – No fishing pressure at the current time.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl – All of the small lakes and ponds are frozen over. The Missouri River is holding some geese and ducks

Grouse – There are very few grouse in Potter and southern Walworth counties. Hunters will find the grouse in NW Potter and SW Walworth counties.

Deer – East River deer ends this weekend. All “Any Deer” tags will be void after December 7th. All “Antlerless Deer” tags will be valid from December 27th – January 4th.
Muzzleloader deer opened December 1.

Pheasants – The regular pheasant season is open. Most of the birds are flocked up in areas of good winter cover. Birds can be found in trees, cattails and food plots.

Stanley County

Josh Thompson



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

Twin Dams – Little fishing activity observed.

Hayes Lake – Little fishing activity observed.

Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands – Some ice fishing activity going on. These ponds offer chances at bluegill, perch, bass, and more. Always use extreme caution on the ice, especially this early in the year when the dams have yet to form more ice

Lake Oahe – Fishing activity has slowed.

Lake Sharpe – Seeing a little more activity in the past week, specifically between the US Hwy 14 Bridge and the Railroad Bridge.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant – Bird numbers have been good. Anticipate that birds will be seeking more shelter and cover in these cooler temperatures.

Grouse – Still seeing a good mix of sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken. The birds are starting to bunch into larger groups.

Goose – Decent amount of geese are in the Pierre area. Looks as though the majority of the numbers have yet to arrive.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Sully County

Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Cottonwood Lake: There has been a lot of activity out on the ice at Cottonwood, but fishing is still very slow, with few fish being caught.

Lake Oahe: The bays are still open on Lake Oahe, and what little ice formed is very thin and

getting thinner. There has been very little activity even with the unseasonably warm weather.



Hunting Report:

Deer hunting in Sully County went very well, with few people still out hunting last weekend. Muzzleloader hunters and archery hunters have been utilizing the warmer weather as well.

Pheasant hunting has been more difficult with the warmer weather as the birds are largely out in the fields feeding during the day. Bird number still seems pretty good.

Waterfowl hunting for both ducks and Canada geese has been decent in western Sully County and there are a lot of birds in the Mail Shack and Okobojo Bay areas. Some hunters using the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access fields have been having very good success.

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Chris Dekker



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The cold snap has iced up most of the area lakes. I have not heard of guys ice fishing the area yet, but there was enough ice



Hunting Report:

Deer season was good. Many happy hunters and a lot of deer harvested.

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

Small ponds and sloughs are frozen over. Small lakes have had no use. Lake Oahe has frozen over with ice building, be cautious of thin ice.



Hunting Report:

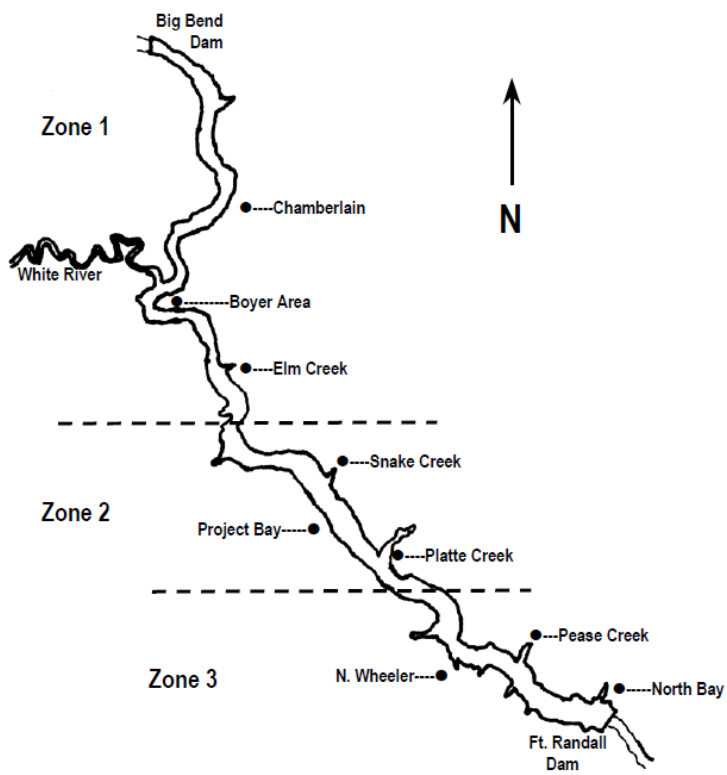
Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

Missouri River report:

Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe
Kyle Potter

Lake Oahe
No Report

Lake Sharpe
No Report



Lake Francis Case
Rachel Tribble

Zone 1 – No Report

Zone 2 – No Report

Zone 3 – No Report